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 PFC Benjamin B. Bartlett Junior of Manchester, GA;  
 SPC Robert D. Varga of Monroe City, MO;  
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 SGT Allen A. Greka of Alpena, MI;  
 SGT Courtney T. Johnson of Garner, NC;  
 ISG Jeffrey R. McKinney of Garland, TX;  
 CAPT Maria I. Ortiz of Bayamon, Puerto Rico;  
 SGT Eric A. Lill of Chicago, IL;  
 MSG Randy J. Gillespie of Coaldale, CO;  
 CPL Kory D. Wiens of Independence, OR;  
 PFC Bruce C. Salazar Junior of Tracy, CA;  
 SGT Gene L. Lamie of Homerville, GA;  
 PFC Le Ron A. Wilson of Queens, NY;  
 CPL Jeremy D. Allbaugh of Luther, OK;  
 LCpl Steven A. Stacy of Coos Bay, OR;  
 LCpl Angel R. Ramirez of Brooklyn, NY;  
 COL Jon M. Lockey of Fredericksburg, VA;  
 SFC Sean K. Mitchell of Monterey, CA;  
 PFC Jason E. Dore of Moscow, ME;  
 SPC Jeremy L. Stacey of Bismarck, AR;  
 SPC Anthony M.K. Vinnedge of Okeana, OH;  
 SPC Roberto J. Causor Junior, of San Jose, CA;  
 SPC Michelle R. Ring, of Martin, TN;  
 MAJ James M. Ahearn, CA;  
 SGT Keith A. Kline of Oak Harbor, OH;  
 SPC Christopher S. Honaker of Cleveland, NC;  
 PFC Joseph A. Miracle of Ortonville, MI;  
 SGT Thomas P. McGee of Hawthorne, CA;  
 PO1 Jason Dale Lewis of Brookfield, CT;  
 PO1 Robert Richard McRill of Lake Placid, FL;  
 PO1 Steven Phillip Daugherty of Barstow, CA;  
 CWO Scott A.M. Oswell, WA;  
 PFC Andrew T. Engstrom of Slaton, TX;  
 PFC Steven A. Davis of Woodbridge, VA;  
 1LT Christopher N. Rutherford of Newport, OH;  
 LCpl William C. Chambers of Ringgold, GA;  
 LCpl Jeremy L. Tinnel of Mechanicsville, VA;  
 LCpl Juan M. Garcia Schill of Grants Pass, OR;  
 SFC Raymond R. Buchan of Johnstown, PA;  
 SSG Michael L. Ruoff Junior of Yosemite, CA;  
 SPC Victor A. Garcia of Rialto, CA;  
 PFC Jonathan M. Rossi of Safety Harbor, FL.

To date, more than 3,600 American men and women have lost their lives in Iraq. And more than 400 have lost their lives in Afghanistan. We will not forget them and the Nation will not forget their sacrifice.

#### COURT SECURITY IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of the first actions I took this year was to reintroduce the Court Security Improvement Act of 2007, S. 378, on January 24, 2007. This bipartisan bill has a dozen cosponsors here in the Senate. In February we held a Judiciary Committee hearing at which we heard from Justice Anthony Kennedy. In March the Judiciary Committee considered and then reported the bill by unanimous consent.

I thank the majority leader and the assistant majority leader for their in-

terest in these matters. Each has witnessed violence against judges in their home States. With their leadership, in April the Senate was called upon to consider the measure. I was amazed when it took a cloture motion to proceed to consideration of court security. Cloture on the motion to proceed was obtained by a vote of 93 to 3. Thereafter, this important measure was considered and passed by the Senate on April 19 by a unanimous vote of 97 to 0. Not a single Senator voted against it, not even those Senators who objected to proceeding to the bill initially or the three Senators who voted against cloture on the motion to proceed.

A companion bill was considered by the House of Representatives and passed on a voice vote. To resolve the remaining difference between the Senate-passed measure and the House-passed measure we sought to substitute the Senate-passed text into the House bill and to request a House-Senate conference. This is hardly a novel procedure. It is a standard way to resolve differences and to complete action on legislation. This routine request has cleared the Democratic side of the aisle here in the Senate. No Democratic Senator has objected to proceeding. But, once again, an anonymous objection on the Republican side is thwarting progress. Just as Republican Senators objected to proceeding to consider legislation to bolster court security in April, now, an anonymous Republican objection is preventing the Senate from acting, requesting a conference and moving forward to resolve the differences and enact this long overdue legislation. Despite the broad bipartisan support for both the Senate bill and for the House bill, we are being blocked from going to conference to resolve the minor differences between them by an anonymous Republican Senator.

This obstruction delays the useful provisions in these bills and threatens important safety measures for our Federal judges and their families. For our justice system to function, our judges must be able to dispense justice. They and their families must be free from the fear of retaliation. Witnesses who come forward must be protected, and the courthouses where our laws are enforced must be secure. We are in danger of letting this chance to improve the security of our Federal courts slip through our fingers. I am disappointed and troubled that we will not be improving the security for our Federal judges and courthouses around the Nation before we go into recess.

I hope that the Republican Senator who has placed this anonymous objection would remove it, to let us go to conference, and to let us improve the security that our Federal courts need.

#### BRIDGE DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I would like to enter into a brief colloquy with my colleague on the Environment and

Public Works Committee regarding his understanding of congressional intent for monies authorized in the pending Minnesota, bridge disaster relief bill.

I want to clarify that this authorization comes from the general fund rather than the Highway Trust Fund. Is that your understanding?

Mr. INHOFE. If the chairman will yield, I concur completely with your understanding. As I read the language, it clearly comes from the general fund and not the Highway Trust Fund. Given the precarious situation with Highway Trust Fund finances, it would be a mistake to place further burdens on it, and as per SAFETEA-LU, all additional emergency repairs come from the general fund.

Mr. BAUCUS. I thank my colleague for his concurrence.

#### ASSISTANCE FOR ETHIOPIA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, after the overthrow of Ethiopia's brutal former Prime Minister Mengistu, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi ushered in a period of hope and optimism. On May 15, 2005, Ethiopia held its first open multiparty elections. The international community praised the people of Ethiopia for an astounding 90 percent voter participation rate, an encouraging beginning to a new political process. The Ethiopian people deserve a democratic process in which opposition parties can organize and participate, and journalists can publish freely, without fear of arrest or retribution. Unfortunately, as it turned out, the 2005 election was not the turning point many had hoped for.

Early polls suggested the opposition Coalition for Unity and Democracy Party would make gains in the Ethiopian Parliament that could threaten the control of Prime Minister Meles' ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front. These reports were followed by credible allegations of manipulation of the vote-counting process. When the government finally announced results that assured its continued hold on power, thousands of people took to the streets in protest. The police arrested over 30,000 people and some 193 people were killed. Although most of the protesters were released soon after their arrest, 70 opposition leaders and journalists remained in prison.

Following these events, I wrote to Ethiopia's Ambassador Kassahun Ayele and officials at the State Department to express my concern with the imprisonment of the Ethiopian politicians. Human rights organizations and other international figures condemned the detentions and urged Prime Minister Meles to release them. These efforts were to no avail.

Some detainees remained in jail for over 2 years before being brought to trial in a manner that was incompatible with international standards of justice. Last month, they were convicted of such vague charges as "outrage against the constitution" and "inciting armed opposition." They were